REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are currently pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 1 and 6 are amended.

Claim 6 was objected to for informalities. Claim 6 is amended. Withdrawal of the objection to Claim 6 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. 2002/0055969 to Sato et al.; Claims 2-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Sato in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,047,376 to Hosoe. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In response to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103, Applicants hereby respectfully submit the enclosed certified translation of the priority document JP 2000-349339. Thus, Sato does not constitute prior art. The effective prior art date for Sato is September 4, 2001. However, the present application claims priority from Japanese Application JP 2000-349339 filed November 10, 2000. Thus, Sato does not constitute prior art, and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-6 is earnestly solicited.
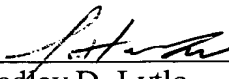
Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this

application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the

undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.Respectfully submitted,

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